

SOUTHWEST IDAHO FIRE TRAINING (SWIFT)
WEST IDAHO TRAINING ZONE

TRAINING SELECTION

Date: March 19, 2020

Subject: S-244 Field Observer Selection Memo

To: Local / Agency Training Representatives

As we continue to evaluate essential versus non-essential travel, the Boise National Forest, acting out of an abundance of caution, has **postponed** the upcoming S-244 course scheduled for March 31 through April 2 to October 2020. We have made this decision based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) intended to slow the spread of the COVID-19.

With that postponement, the following individuals have been selected to attend S-244 Field Observer hosted by the Boise National Forest with the training location at 220 S. Production Street in Boise, Idaho. Training will begin at 1300 hours on Tuesday, October 20 and conclude by 1630 hours on Thursday, October 22, 2020.

Boise Fire Department

Brian Ashton

BOF/Supervisor's Office

Tony Beauchaine

BLM/Boise District

Cody Shreve

BOF/Idaho City RD

Everardo Santillan

BLM/Salt Lake Field Office

William Sanders

BOF/Emmett RD

Jonathon Jackson

Sarah Jorgenson

Chris Lowers

Allison Lund

Willy Rockhill

Ryan Tutt

Kevin Vickers

IDL/Southwest Supervisory

Bryan Durkin

We realize that having the course dates pushed back to October, that students may have to cancel, as October 1 approaches, a verification email will be generated to confirm availability.

In addition, nominations are still being accepted.

There is required pre-course work, <https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/training-courses/s-244/pre-course-work> and students are required to complete and bring all items with them to the training session (see following page). Specifically, you need to understand the material in “Basic Land Navigation” and be proficient in the use of the GPS receiver you bring. You should know how to collect and document waypoints and routes, be able to download GPS data files acceptable to GIS and have cables or data transfer media to accomplish transfer to an agency standard laptop computer.

In addition, some current history: The NWCG course S-244 (Field Observer/Fire Effects Monitor) was revised in 2007; the position taskbooks (PTB) for FOBS and FEMO were significantly changed and combined in 2009 (and updated September 2012). S-244 is not scheduled for another revision, so the Fire Use Subcommittee of NWCG sponsored the development of supplemental lessons (“patches”) to address knowledge required by the PTB but not covered in the existing S-244 course. The objective was to make the knowledge necessary for successful completion of the FOBS/FEMO taskbook readily available to instructors of S-244 as well as to currently qualified FOBS’s and FEMO’s who may want to acquire knowledge that was not originally covered in S-244 or the earlier position taskbooks.

The class is structured as a mixture of classroom lecture and field exercises. The final day will be a short-written test followed by a fire scenario developed to simulate a fire assignment, collection of data and measurements, preparing data (including a map sketch) and debrief to a SITL role player.

Field exercises will take place heat, rain or snow so bring appropriate clothing and protection for yourself and your equipment.

All cancellations by selected nominees must be routed through the nominee’s local training representative.

Questions regarding this course should be directed to the Lead Instructor, Blake Abbott at (208) 960-2578 or blake.abbott@usda.gov.

S-244, Field Observer *Pre-course work*

The following pre-course work is mandatory:

1. Review the publication, ***Basic Land Navigation*** <https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pms475.pdf>, and be able to answer any questions similar to the exercises in class. ***It is important for this pre-work to be completed***, as most of the S-244 course is based upon this content. If you need help completing these exercises, seek assistance at your home unit before the course date or contact the Lead Instructor Blake Abbott. Bring any questions that develop from this pre-course work to the course. We can customize this course to spend more time in any topic.

The following materials are needed to complete the exercises (these same materials will also need to be brought to the course):

- Compass with adjustment for magnetic declination
- Clinometer
- Calculator

2. Read the owner's manual for your Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver and have a basic understanding of how to use the receiver. You are expected to be familiar with the basic use of a GPS receiver. We can cover uploading and downloading information to "GARMIN" receivers. If you don't have a GPS email the instructor and he will bring some extra.

In addition to the aforementioned items, please bring the following items to the course:

- Wildland Fire Incident Management Field Guide (PMS 210)
<https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/210>
- Incident Response Pocket Guide (NFES 1077)
<https://www.nwcg.gov/publications/461>
- All weather clothing and footwear for field exercise(s)
- GPS receiver and download cable (or call)
- Belt weather kit and or Kestrel
- Drafting materials: markers, pens, pencils, ruler, protractor
- Cruiser's vest or day pack for field exercise.
- IPAD/ Tablet/ Smart Device (if you have one you want to use)

3. Finally, the cadre will be introducing **Collector** as a tool to create and view data as a FOBS on a fire. *You will need a NIFC ArcGIS Online account to do this.* If you do not already have one, please use the link below to request one, preferably at least a week before class so that your account is set up by the time we do the exercise:

<https://nifc.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

The NIFC ArcGIS Online account is free and no other action is needed at this time. We will go over what Collector is and how to use it in class. Questions? Contact Kari Gromatzky at (208) 373-4163 or at kari.gromatzky@usda.gov



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Wildfire Perimeters



#2020 GeoOps Folder Structure (Folders, GDBs, ...)



A Summary of the NIFC ArcGIS Online Org



National Interagency Fire Center

Welcome to the NIFC ArcGIS Online site!

The purpose of this site is to provide a common location for online mapping during:

- Active and upcoming wildland incident response
- Prescribed fires
- Fuels treatment planning and data collection, for both prescribed fire or mechanical treatments
- All hazard incident response
- Fire planning and data sharing for wildfire response

[Request a NEW Account](#)

[Request Support](#): password reset, workflow help, troubleshooting, etc.

[What's New In ArcGIS Online](#)

***NEW* GIS Specialist Training Website**

Click on these icons (links to groups) to access documents, user guides, templates, and examples.